

B U L L E T I N

CAMBODIA ANNOUNCES INTENT TO RELEASE MAYAGUEZ

BK142340 FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PHNOM PENH DOMESTIC SERVICE IN CAMBODIAN AT 2307 GMT 14 MAY
CARRIES A 15-MINUTE PRESS COMMUNIQUE ON THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT WHICH
IS READ BY HU NIM, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA.

THE COMMUNIQUE SAYS: SINCE WE LIBERATED PHNOM PENH AND
THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, U.S. IMPERIALISM HAS REPEATEDLY AND
SUCCESSIVELY CARRIED OUT INTELLIGENCE AND ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES
TO CONDUCT SUBVERSIVE, PROVOCATIVE ACTS AGAINST THE NEWLY LIBERATED
NEW CAMBODIA IN AN APPARENT DESIRE NOT TO ALLOW THE CAMBODIAN
NATION AND PEOPLE TO LIVE.

IT EXPLAINS WHY THE RGNUC HAS DETAINED U.S. IMPERIALIST
SHIPS OFF THE CAMBODIAN COAST, CHARGING THAT THESE SHIPS,
INCLUDING THE MAYAGUEZ, ARE CIA SPY SHIPS. IT ALSO CHARGES
THE U.S. OF USING AIRPLANES TO ATTACK CAMBODIAN NAVAL
VESSELS, AND THEN SAYS: "OUR RGNUC WILL ORDER THE MAYAGUEZ
TO WITHDRAW FROM CAMBODIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS AND WILL WARN
IT AGAINST FURTHER ESPIONAGE OR PROVOCATIVE ACTIVITIES. THIS
APPLIES TO THE MAYAGUEZ OR ANY OTHER SHIPS, LIKE THE SHIP FLYING
THE PANAMA FLAG WHICH WE RELEASED ON 9 MAY 1975."

15 MAY 0006Z BR/GS*****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 15, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

At my direction, United States forces tonight boarded the American merchant ship S.S. Mayaguez and landed at the Island of Koh Tang for the purpose of rescuing the crew and ship which had been illegally seized by Cambodian forces. They also conducted supporting strikes against nearby military installations.

I have now received information that the vessel has been recovered intact and that the entire crew has been rescued.

The forces that have successfully accomplished this mission are still under hostile fire but are preparing to disengage.

deep
I wish to express my appreciation and that of the entire nation to the units and men who participated in these operations for their valor and *for* sacrifice.

Amir

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5/14

PRESS STATEMENT

In further pursuit of our efforts to obtain the release of the SS Mayaguez and its crew, the President has directed the following military measures, starting this evening Washington time:

- U.S. Marines to board the S. S. Mayaguez.
- U.S. Marines to land on Koh Tang Island, in order to rescue any crew members as may be on the Island.
- Aircraft from the carrier "Coral Sea" to undertake associated military operations in the area in order to protect and support the operations to regain the vessel and members of the crew.

5/14

SECRET

Text of Statement to be Read Over Cambodian
Frequencies and via Loud Speaker to Inhabitants
of the Island

"American forces have retaken our ship, the Mayaguez, and landed on Koh Tang Island. We demand the release of the crew members unharmed. If the Cambodian authorities do not announce by 10:00 this morning their intention to release all crew members unconditionally and immediately, the Cambodian authorities will be fully responsible for the further consequences. We are monitoring international distress frequencies to receive response."

SECRET